

Abstract (in English):

This thesis focuses on early care in families who have deaf, hard-of-hearing or deafen children. The theoretical part describes the division of hearing impairment and types of hearing examination. The culture of Deaf is described as a possibility of different approaches of hearing parents and deaf parents. Other part is focused on accepting a deaf/hard-of-hearing child into the family and a description of relationships between deaf parents and their deaf children in the contrary of the relationship between hearing parents and their deaf children. The differences in care are discussed in depth. In the conclusion, the possibilities of professional support for families with hearing impaired children are summarised.

The empiric part is based on quantitative research in which the families visiting Centrum pro dětský sluch, Tamtam, o.p.s. (centre for children`s hearing) were given the survey. These families have hearing impaired children or they themselves are deaf. The aim was to find out when they had learnt about the hearing loss of their children and if they had got enough information from the maternity hospital or their paediatrician about both hearing impairment and possibilities of care. Other crucial thing was to find out whether the families receive enough support or if they would prefer some other services.